

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 12  
VOLUME 35 ISSUE 1

# Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

December 2015 –  
January 2016



The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

## Marti Dennis, Managing Editor

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

**Contributors: Clem Dougherty and  
Asleain "Scotty" Hodges**

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at: **mdennis1@att.net**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter

PO Box 19956

Sacramento, CA 95819

## President's Message By Bob Dreyer



Happy holidays one and all! As the year grows to a close, it is time to look back and see where we are now as compared to where we were at the start of the year. As an organization we are in fantastic shape financially and can look forward to doing more next year for the Capitol Museum and offering more educational and social opportunities for our membership. We graduated a new class of volunteers in August, and many of them have jumped right in and started "hanging out" at the Capitol to help wherever necessary. The longer term members have provided continuity and helped assure that the association says "on course." I have had a great time performing the duties of President this past year and want to thank the Board of Directors for their support and timely suggestions. Being a member of the Board of Directors is something I encourage all of you do, it's where you can really make a difference in the long term direction of CSCMVA. If you have been a member for at least one year and haven't run for a position on the "board," I encourage you to do so. With a new year, comes a new board, and you just have to contact our Vice President, P.J. Jones to "throw your hat in the ring".

As always, I want to encourage you to come to the Capitol. There are never too many of us there at one time. Use the information you have been provided to make memorable our visitors time at the Capitol. You can position yourself near the historical rooms, the galleries, or just roam around talking to folks. Practice your tour giving skills by "picking up" small groups who may have missed the regular tour and showing them the building and sharing its history. If you have questions about volunteering please give me a call or send an email.

I hope to see you at the **Annual Meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>**. Come, have lunch, enjoy the awards, and renew friendships. We are a small but mighty association, and we need each and every one of you to fulfill our mission!

~ **Bob**

CSCMVA Promotes the Educational and Interpretive Activities of the California State Capitol Museum

## Sunshine Corner:

Cards were sent to the following individuals this month:

- **Kay Christensen** – Get well wishes for her recovery following hospitalization for a serious infection
- **David Keck** – Get well wishes for his recovery from surgery

Please remember that if you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of all our membership. Scotty can be contacted at [hashhogg901@yahoo.com](mailto:hashhogg901@yahoo.com) or by phone at 707- 425-1909.



## Holiday Music Program:

Once again, the Capitol rotunda is filled with music during the “lunch hour” – anytime **between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM daily** depending on the scheduled musical participants. Each year more and more groups are requesting to join this wonderful Capitol tradition, and this year is expected to be quite busy, especially on the weekends. There are **numerous opportunities for volunteers to participate as docents**, welcoming guests and helping them find a seat, providing them with programs, ensuring the hallways around the rotunda are kept clear and making a headcount of visitors (including those on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor). The assignment “Holiday Music Program” has been added as an option on the Volgistics website list. Please find the day you are able to help and signup remotely, or use the sign-up sheets posted on the bulletin board next to the Volunteer Desk. We need additional docents to help with this important Capitol activity!

In addition, there is an opportunity to be one of the participants in this enjoyable holiday tradition. Rehearsal for the **Capitol Museum Singers** (docents and Capitol Parks staff) will be **December 16 at 2:00 PM**, and the **group performance will be December 19 at 11:00 AM**. Please arrive at 9:30 AM on the day of the performance in order to warm up. A sign-up sheet to join the Capitol Museum Singers is posted at the volunteer desk.

## CSCMVA Annual Meeting: January 21, 2016

It is that time of year again, when we get together to review our activities over the past year, honor those reaching significant service milestones, and elect new members to the Board of Directors. It is also a special time to enjoy each other and a lovely meal out. This year's Annual Meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 21** at the **Iron Grill** and will begin at **11:30 AM**. Invitations are in process providing more details about the event. The Board is subsidizing the cost of the luncheon and has established the cost as \$10 for members and \$15 for non-member guests. Look for the invitation in the mail, and be sure to read the statements of the members (below) who have agreed to serve on the Board.

## Candidates for the Board of Directors:

The Nominating Committee, under the leadership of PJ Jones, Vice President, has recommended a slate of three CSCMVA volunteers for election to the 2016 Board. The candidates are **Connie Clark**, **Ron Lauchner**, and **William Monahan**. In order for members to make an

informed decision about future CSCMVA leadership, each of the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee has provided a brief statement.

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**Connie Clark:** “My name is Connie Clark, and I am running for a second term on the CSCMVA Board. I began volunteering in 2006 and have enjoyed interpreting each room. I’ve won a variety of awards during that time. Besides being a current Board member, I serve on the website and costume committees and have mentored several of our current Docents.

“Much of my time now is spent with the Living History events. I have had the pleasure of directing the last few years’ events. I also help with costume design and construction during our costume and hat workshops. This coming spring I will be co-chairing the Camellia Pin-On Day for the third year.

“As with all of you, the Capitol and CSCMVA are very important to me. I have enjoyed my time on the Board and hope to be re-elected.”



**Ron Lauchner:** “I have been a happy member of the Capitol Museum Volunteer Association since graduating with the Training Class of 2012. I learned about the Capitol program while serving as a docent with the Crocker Art Museum and the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. The Capitol has been a rewarding change. My wife, Kay, and I moved to Northern California (Auburn) in 2004 to be closer to our children and grandchildren. We were both raised in military families, lived many places and enjoyed settling down in such a beautiful location near our family.

“I graduated from high school in Albuquerque, NM and immediately moved to Europe where I attended college, traveled and worked for several years. Eventually, I returned to the U.S. and graduated (BA History) from the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. I later obtained a Masters (Counseling/Psychology) from Ball State University. I served 27 years in the U.S. Air Force, performing a wide variety of duties and living many places, including another five years in Europe and five years (my last five years) at the Pentagon, Washington, DC. I retired as a colonel after the First Gulf War. Since leaving the Air Force I have been engaged in a variety of volunteer organizations, including docent/staff/board member at four different art museums, various civic organizations as well as several adult literacy and GED programs.

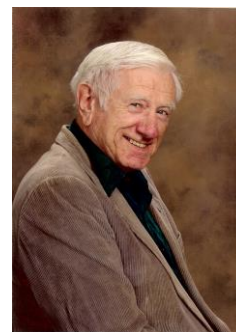
“At the Capitol I have participated in several of the living history programs, been a historic room interpreter, assisted at the West Information Desk, and roved around giving mini tours as needed. I enjoy and am proud to be a volunteer at the Capitol, and consider it a privilege to be a member of such a fine organization.”

**William (“Bill”) Monahan:** “I am a member of the 2012 class, having become interested in CSCMVA upon retiring from my career with USPS where I provided customer service as well as interpreting postal rules and regulations and, following those duties, I moved to the Employee Relations Board, and continue as a Trustee with the Postal Union.

“I have an interest in both history and politics and felt that being a docent at the Capitol would be both interesting and educational – and I have not been disappointed.

"I have earned my 300 hour pin through staffing the WI desk on weekends and from participation in various living history events. I have also enjoyed being a part of the Capitol Museum Singers during the holidays.

"I enjoy being part of this organization, and I believe I can be an asset on the Board. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to participate in a leadership role through my election."



## Did You Know....

By Clem Dougherty

*[Editor's Note: Clem continues to provide us with information in his series on San Francisco. With this article he provides the second in a four part mini-series dealing with A.P. Giannini and the Bank of America. Both A.P. and the Bank played an important role in the development of San Francisco.]*

Did you know... that A.P. Giannini ("A.P.") revolutionized banking practices here in California? Yes it's true. In a prior edition of the *Clarion* we left A.P. in 1902 quitting both the wholesale produce and real estate businesses and starting his own bank which he incorporated in 1904 as "The Bank of Italy."

Up until this time banks regularly sought large and wealthy depositors and ignored the ordinary man, particularly immigrants. Furthermore, the banks of the time seldom started branches and preferred to operate out of single institutions located in single towns. A.P. reversed those policies. A. P. already was well acquainted with North Beach in that he grew up there and worked in the produce and real estate businesses there. In entering the bank business, he set his sights on the Italian workers living in North Beach. In fact he chose the name: "Bank of Italy," so as to appeal to the Italian workers in North Beach. This was the age when all Californians, including the Italian immigrants, dealt in silver and gold as ordinary currency and not paper money which only became common in California during World War I (1914-1918). A. P. faced an uphill battle in 1904 to convince the Italian workers to take their hard-earned gold and silver coins out of mattresses and hidden tin cans and deposit them with the Bank of Italy. He walked door to door in North Beach to convince the immigrants to trust him, and because of his powers of persuasion, he was successful.

Not only did the workers open accounts with the Bank of Italy but bought Bank of Italy shares so as to acquire an ownership interest in the Bank. A.P. deliberately sought a broad ownership of small investors and was not a major shareholder in the Bank. In an age when banks ordinarily refrained from loaning money to the working class, A.P. adopted a liberal loan policy whereby hundreds of North Beach working class residents for the first time could now own their own homes. The Bank's initial location at the intersection of Washington St. and Columbus Ave. in North Beach, and its Spartan one-room quarters with no frills (a former saloon) emphasized its identification with the working class. The Bank became extremely popular among Italian North Beach residents who formed a hard group of A.P. supporters in the battles yet to come. Thus began the Bank of Italy's total immersion into the very life of the City.





**Bank of Italy circa 1906**

To San Franciscans living at the time, April 18, 1906, marked a dividing line in history. To them everything was measured either as occurring before or after the earthquake and fire. The earthquake occurred at approximately 5:15 A.M. on Wednesday, April 18, 1906. At the time A.P. lived in San Mateo. As word of the disaster spread, A.P. walked from San Mateo into the City where he was able to get into the Bank of Italy. With the help of two of the Bank's employees arriving on the scene, they were able to load onto two horse drawn wagons the Bank's cash (\$80,000 in silver and gold—roughly \$2 million today) and the Bank's books and furniture and hide them under crates of oranges. With A.P. riding shotgun on one of the wagons, they made their way back to San Mateo where they hid the cash in the fireplace of A.P.'s home. Two days later A.P. appeared on the Washington St. wharf and set up an outside office with a board atop two barrels serving as a desk and a bag of gold on the desk and announced that the Bank of Italy was open for business. This time he began lending money to the North Beach Italians at low interest rates, but only ½ of what they wanted. The other half they had to raise on their own. This made the Italian community produce the gold and silver still hidden and place it on deposit with the Bank of Italy. He also lent money to ship owners to bring lumber from Oregon and Washington in order that the City would have the necessary lumber to rebuild the City.

By the time the other banks in the City were able to open for business, the Italian residents of North Beach were far along in rebuilding their homes. The significance of what A.P. did after the earthquake and fire was to show the Bank of Italy's solidarity with the Italian community of North Beach and to further plant the Bank's roots deeper into the very life of the City.

(Sources: Bonadio, Felice A., A.P. Giannini, Banker of America, pp. 1-38; Catani, D. and Haight, A., A.P. Giannini, The Man With the Midas Touch, pp. 25-50; James, M. and James, B., Biography of a Bank, the Story of the Bank of America N.T. & S.A., pp. 21-32

Next time: the Bank of America and branch banking

## SAVE THE DATE(S): Upcoming Women's Suffrage Events

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016** will be a kick-off event for the upcoming **Women's Suffrage Living History Event**. The lunch program will be held at the **Northridge Country Club** and will feature an interesting **history of the Suffrage movement by our own Carolyn Martin**. Carolyn has presented this program previously for the Renaissance program at Sacramento State. Lunch will be \$10. More information is forthcoming.



**Note: The date for the Women's Suffrage Living History event has been changed to Saturday, April 23, 2016.**

## The Capitol Decorated for Christmas:

On November 23, approximately 15 volunteers, under the leadership of **Marilyn Thompson**, gathered to transform three of the museum rooms into vintage Christmas offices. Trees purchased last year by the Association were decorated with Victorian ornaments – some purchased **and** a host of others handmade by our volunteers over the course of several workshops. In addition, beautiful garlands handmade by **Jan Forbes** were elegantly draped on a couple of pieces of furniture in each of the rooms rendering them fully decorated for a 1906 Christmas. The photos below reflect our volunteers – several from our new class of 2015! -- at work acting as Christmas elves.



*Finishing  
touches to a  
Capitol  
Victorian  
Christmas*



**Reminder:** Volunteers will be needed to help remove the Christmas decorations shortly after the first of the New Year. Please watch for an email from Rachel Martinez asking for your help with this project.

## Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

If you have not met this volunteer, allow me to introduce you to one of the members from the Class of 2010. This gentleman is a warm, friendly, and very interesting person with whom to converse. He is another native Californian. He was born in Sutter General Hospital of Sacramento, raised in West Sacramento, and attended West Acres Elementary School and James Marshall High School. After graduation from James Marshall, he joined the United States Navy, and served three years at the Naval Air Station at Los Alamitos and VA-305 (VA refers to Fixed Wing Attach Squadron). After his departure from the Navy, he returned to West Sacramento to complete a Carpenter's Apprentice Program and attend Consumes River College.

His career in the Construction field actually began when he worked as a laborer during high school. Over the span of his career, he moved on to carpentry, became a Project Manager, then an Operations Manager, and finally progressed to Vice President of Construction. The achiever of whom I speak is **Rodney Lukins** who continues to welcome challenges and plunges right into projects and succeeds at whatever it might be! Some of the major projects on which Rodney has worked include the following: the California State Railroad Museum; Kiwanis Family House at the University of California at Davis Medical Center; Bio-Rad Laboratories in Hercules; and several elementary and high schools in the Sacramento metropolitan area.



**Rodney Lukins**

Rodney joined the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association after his wife, Cheryl, noticed an advertisement in the *Sacramento Bee* and encouraged him to call. He did, and he generously offers that his wife was right, and he is having a great time as a docent! He believes his lifelong interest in history and government is an asset that helps him to perform the duties required of a docent, such as serving in Living History events. Rodney continues to support the Parks staff and Museum volunteers; gives tours and serves at the WI desk greeting, directing and answering questions that visitors may have. He also roams through the Museum hallways to guide, direct and encourage visitors to enjoy all aspects of the State Capitol Museum. At the end of last year, Rodney earned his 750 hours pin and, by now, is probably close to joining the 1,000 hour club. His five years of dedicated service is deeply appreciated, and we look forward to many more years of his service.

Interestingly enough, Rodney notes that there is a family "investment" in the Capitol building. While he was working on the Railroad Museum, his brother Wayne worked with Mike Casey on the deconstruction of the Capitol, and both his brother, Gary, and his uncle worked on the reconstruction!

In his spare time, Rodney enjoys Fly Fishing, playing golf, and playing in a local Bocce Ball league at East Portal Park.



## Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting –December 2, 2015

By Marilyn Thompson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by **President Bob Dreyer**.

### *2015 Board of Directors*

**President: Bob Dreyer**

**Vice President: PJ Jones**

**Treasurer: Bob Dennis**

**Secretary: Marilyn Thompson**

**Members: Connie Clark, Chris Tyler,  
David Keck, Julie Mallett and Randall Williams**

**Minutes:** Accepted as distributed..

**Treasurer's Report:** **Bob Dennis** reported net income for the month was \$1,454. We received a check for \$175 as income from the new penny smasher. Bob, again, expressed concern that we are generating too much income for a nonprofit. He suggested the board consider worthwhile expenses such as additional educational excursions and improvements to the museum rooms.

**Bookstore / Membership Report:** **Mary Geach** reported book sales receipts for November were \$1,572 --\$55 less than November 2014. WW II posters are selling well, and Renato prepared a new supply. Bob Dennis noted that book sales earned \$8,000 more this year than budgeted and thanked Mary. Mary reported that membership letters will go out after January 1st. Hours "worked" need to be posted in Volgistics no later than December 31, so Mary and Diane Rich can assess what hourly pins need to be ordered.

**Christmas Project Report:** Marilyn Thompson reported that the Christmas decorations went up November 23 thanks to the efforts of all of those who helped, especially Koren Benoit, Rachel Martinez, and Alex King. Volunteers will be needed to take them down and put them away. Details of that effort will follow in an email. A new chairman / chairpersons will be needed for next year.

She further reported that, unfortunately, not everything associated with this project went as planned. There was miscommunication about the garlands prepared for the chandeliers, and she was not notified of the concerns until the day of installation: November 23. This led to a discussion of the need for clearly written procedures and a timeline for all new projects. Matt presented a draft form which needs more input and clarification. He apologized for the last minute termination of the garland project and acknowledged the need for better communication between CSCMVA and Parks. Garlands were repurposed and used in other areas.

**State Parks Report:** **Rachel Martinez** reported a need for more docents for the Holiday Music Program. Only four people have signed up to date. About 12 people have signed up for the Capitol Museum Sing-Along.

**Matt Bellah** requested, and the Board approved, \$200 for a roll of photo paper for printing the WW II posters. Clarification: the recording of the WW II soldier's letter (mentioned last month) was only an example of how technology might be used. The project ran into technical difficulties and won't be used for the current WW II exhibits. Matt is working on obtaining short clips recorded for each museum room, and they might be finished this month. These would be tied to QR codes on museum signs and could be heard by visitors on a smart phone or online from home by going to the Capitol website.

**Clarion:** The next issue will, as in the past, be a combined issue for the months December and January. Deadline for submission is December 4.



**CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

**Suffrage Day:** There will be a kick-off luncheon at the Northridge Country Club on Tuesday, March 1. Carolyn Martin does a wonderful suffrage presentation which will be included, and the event will be considered a social activity as well. It was moved, seconded and passed to set the cost of the luncheon at \$10. Letters recruiting actors / helpers will go out before March 1. It was subsequently requested, and approved, that the date for the Suffrage Day be moved to **April 23** to accommodate several potential participants.

**Nomination Committee:** There are three openings and, to date, two candidates.

**Bylaws/Standing Rules:** PJ will send the proposed revised bylaws to board members for review before the January Annual Meeting.

**Annual Meeting:** The meeting will be at the Iron Grill on January 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be four menu choices. While the Iron Grill charges \$24 for each person, the Board agreed to charge members \$10 and non-member guests \$15. CSCMVA will subsidize the remainder of the cost. It was suggested that a larger venue be chosen for next year to accommodate more social mingling.

**Camellia Day:** New member Gail Roueche and Connie Clark are co-chairs. They are meeting December 10.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**River Cats Games:** Alex suggested that we again attend one or two games in 2016. River Cats would like us to choose dates and pay deposit (\$100 for each scheduled date). The Board approved Alex and Bob Dreyer to choose two dates and pay the required deposits. They were directed to choose seats in the shade.

**Koren Benoit:**

- Ann Fox Morgan has donated two antique candlesticks to CSCMVA. They are currently being used as part of the decorations in the governor's private office. Koren requested a thank you note be written to Ann with a stated value. Marilyn will write the letter once the value is determined.
- The Chief Clerk's office, in conjunction with Joint Rules has produced a brochure on the art and architecture of the east wing of the Capitol. They are giving it to legislative members. Koren inquired if the Association would like to sell it in the bookstore. Mary Geach will see about getting it printed and will probably sell it for \$3.50. Copyright issues need to be clarified before Mary can work on the project.
- The new Capitol [visitor] brochure in English with a floor map is almost done. Matt should be able to review and approve it by the end of the month. He does not know how long printing will take.

**Benicia Excursion:** Bob Dreyer thanked Patty Wood and Diane Rich for a very enjoyable bus trip to Benicia, including very "professional" bus stewardess service. Actual cost to CSCMVA was only \$600.

**The January Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 6 at 1:00 PM.  
All members are encouraged to attend.**

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As we look forward to **2016**, volunteer **Vicky Rodgers** has suggested we consider the words of Edith Lovejoy Pierce:

**"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves.  
The book is called 'Opportunity,' and its first chapter is New Year's Day."**

## Upcoming Events:

Holiday Music Program: <b>Volunteers Needed!</b>	December 1 – 23
Capitol Museum Singers:	
Rehearsal:	Wednesday, December 16, 2:00 PM
Warm Up:	Saturday, December 19, 9:30 AM
Performance:	Saturday, December 19, 11:00 AM
Christmas Tree “Undecorating:”	January 2 or 3, 2016 (TBD)
Board of Directors Meeting:	Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 1 PM
CSCMVA Annual Meeting:	Thursday, January 21, 2016 11:30 AM
Museum Day:	Saturday, February 6, 2016
Camellia Day:	Late February, 2016 (Date TBD)
Women’s Suffrage Kick Off:	Tuesday, March 1, 2016 Northridge Country Club
Women’s’ Suffrage Day:	Saturday, <b>April 23</b> , 2016
Admission Day:	Friday, September 9, 2016,

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**To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of “Favorites” or “Bookmark” it.**

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

**Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319**  
Rachel Martinez

**Tour Guide Office: 324-0333**

**Scheduler’s Desk: 324-2088**

**Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving,**

**Christmas and New Year’s Day**

